'in principal allocation' of 2.25 MMSCMD of natural gas effective from 2003 for the proposed 650 MW gas based power project to be set up at Pipavav, Gujarat. The allocation was subject to investment decision to be taken by the Management Committee of the Tapti Field for the additional development of the field. The Management Committee has not taken any decision.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Government of Gujarat had requested for additional allocation of gas to their power plants on *prorata* basis from HBJ. To overcome the power shortage additional quantity of gas to an extent of 0.5 MMSCMD was given to Gujarat Industries Power Company Limited (GIPCL).

Problem faced by refineries in Assam

2042. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the oil refineries located in Assam face difficulties as regards crude supply;

(b) whether Government have any plan to improve this difficulty to save the refineries there; and

(c) whether Government are taking steps to explore more oilfields in Assam through ONGC and OIL or any other agency to get the crude?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Various options are under consideration of the Government. No final decision has been taken as yet.

(c) Besides offer of blocks under the New Exploration Licensing Policy by the Government, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited and Oil India Limited are implementing work programmes in their exploration blocks and oilfields in Assam.

Exploration of oil and gas

2043. PROF. M. M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the places in the country where exploration of oil and natural gas has been undertaken by all oil companies during the Ninth Plan; Company-wise and location-wise;

(b) the details of achievements made so far in this regard;

(c) whether Government have formulated any comprehensive scheme for exploration of oil and natural gas in different parts of the country during the Tenth Plan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Two National Oil Companies (NOCs), i.e. Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd., (ONGC) and Oil India Ltd., (OIL), and various private/joint venture companies carried out exploration of oil and gas in the following basins:—

Assam-Arakan, Bengal, Cambay, Cauvery, Ganga, Himalayan Foreland, Jaisalmer, Krishna-Godavari, Satpura, Vindhyan, Upper Assam, West Bengal, Eastern and Western Offshore.

As a result of exploratory efforts, more than 780 Million Metric Tonne (MMT) of Oil and Oil Equivalent of Gas (O+OEG) have been accredited during Ninth Plan Period by all oil companies.

(c) and (d) Tenth Plan for exploration of oil and gas has been formulated keeping in view the India Hydrocarbon Vision-2025, which among others included the following objectives:—

(i) Pursue extensive exploration in non-producing and frontier basins including deepwater areas for knowledge building and break-through.

(ii) Carry out sustained exploration efforts in producing basins.

Further, Government have announced New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) in order to accelerate the pace of exploration activities in the country and to supplement the efforts of NOCs. Under first and second rounds of NELP, Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs) for 47 blocks have been signed. Under the third round of NELP, 23 exploration blocks have been awarded. The results of exploratory efforts during the Tenth Plan are projected to yield accretion of 785-914 MMT of O+OEG.